

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the due consideration given the application.

Claims 15-28 are pending in the application. The claims have been amended to better set forth the invention being claimed.

No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this amendment.

Rejection under 35 USC §101

Claims 15-28 have been rejected under 35 USC §101 as not being drawn to statutory subject matter. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Official Action asserts that claims 15-18 recite a recording medium but does not impart functionality to a device. However, independent claim 15 has been amended to include "an information recording apparatus," which is clearly a device.

The Official Action asserts that claims 25-27 recite a computer program but does not impart functionality to a device. However, independent claims 25-27 include the recitation "a program of instructions executable by a computer to make the computer function as at least one portion of a first recording device," which clearly imparts functionality to a device.

Independent claim 28 has been amended similarly to claim 15 to provide sufficient basis in a device.

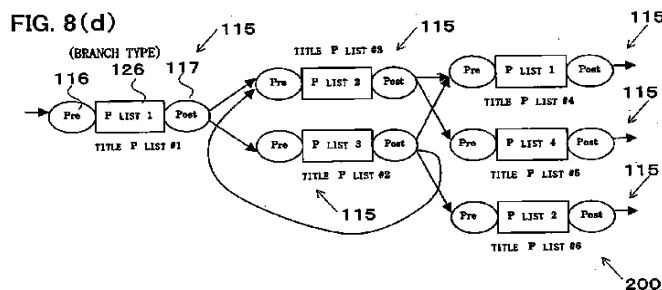
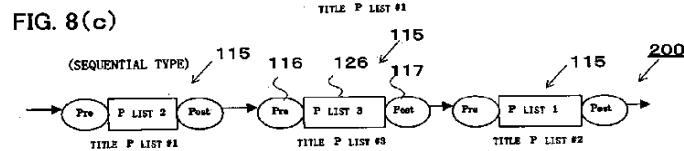
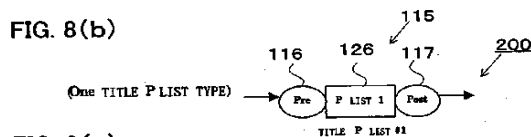
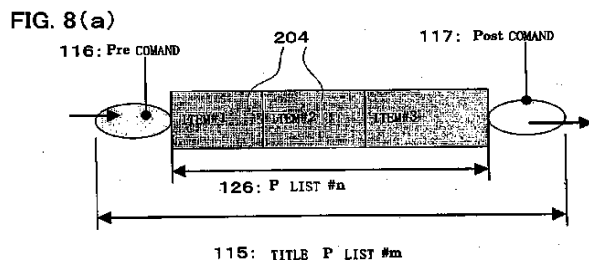
The claims of the invention are thus clearly drawn to statutory subject matter.

This rejection is believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Rejection over MURASE et al.

Claims 15-28 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by MURASE et al. (U.S. Patent 5,907,658). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention pertains to the reproduction of play lists using Pre commands and Post commands. The present invention is illustrated, by way of example, in Figures 8a-8d of the application, which are reproduced below.



The Pre commands and Post commands are typically set forth in claim 15 of the present invention, which states:

"the Pre command information including a Pre command pointer which is written separately from the command table and which specifies the address of the command to be executed before the reproduction included in the command table, the Post command information including a Post command pointer which is written separately from the command table and which specifies the address of the command to be executed after the reproduction included in the command table."

Regarding the pointers of the present invention, these can be better understood in light of Figure 19 of the application, which is reproduced below.

FIG. 19

115T'

FIELD NAME	DESCRIPTION CONTENTS	REMARKS
115P' COMMAND POINTER	Pre COMMAND Table START ADDRESS	RELATIVE ADDRESS
	THE TOTAL Pre COMMAND NUMBER (THE POINTER NUMBER)	
	Post COMMAND Table START ADDRESS	RELATIVE ADDRESS
	THE TOTAL Post COMMAND NUMBER (THE POINTER NUMBER)	
116P Pre COMMAND POINTER	COMMAND Table START ADDRESS	RELATIVE ADDRESS
	OTHER INFORMATION	
	COMMAND NUMBER USED AS Pre COMMAND #1 (e.g. COMMAND #3 etc.)	COMMAND NUMBER OF COMMAND Table
117P Post COMMAND POINTER	COMMAND NUMBER USED AS Pre COMMAND #2	

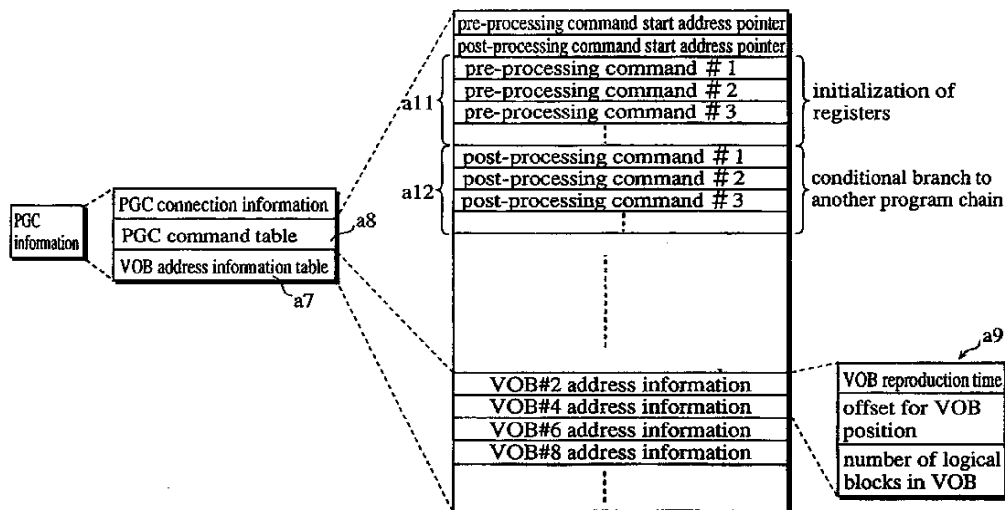
	COMMAND NUMBER USED AS Post COMMAND #1	
115T' COMMAND Table	COMMAND NUMBER USED AS Post COMMAND #2	

	COMMAND #1 (COMMAND CONTENTS)	STATEMENTS ARE WRITTEN
	COMMAND #2	
	COMMAND #3	
	-----	116, 117

As can be seen in Figure 19, the "Command Pointer" specifies the address of the "Pre Command Pointer" and the "Post Command Pointer". The Pre/Post Command Pointer specifies the address of the command to be executed.

MURASE et al. pertain to a multimedia optical disk and reproduction apparatus directed at interactive gaming. The Official Action refers to Figures 12A and 12B of MURASE et al. for teachings pertaining to Pre commands and Post commands. Figure 12B of MURASE et al. is reproduced below.

Fig. 12B

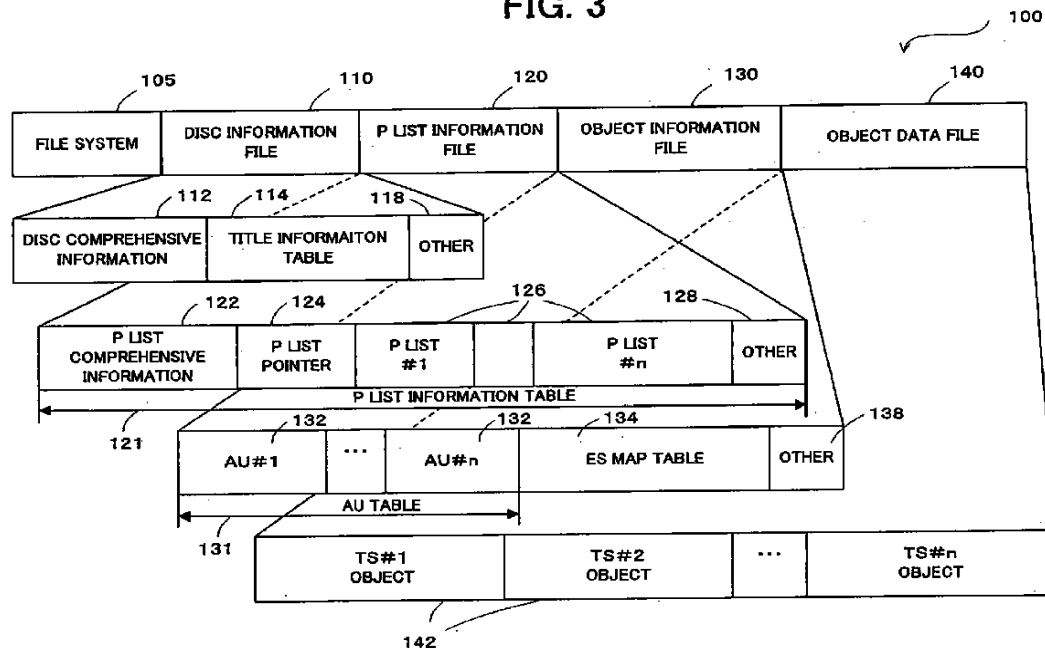


First, it is noted that the Official Action is interpreting the PGC information in MURASE et al. as being equivalent to the playlist information of the present invention. But as shown in Figures 12A and 12B of MURASE et al., PGC information is not the same as the playlist information in our invention because PGC information includes a Pre processing command and a Post processing command as well as VOB address

information table(a7). Here, the VOB address information table(a7) appears to correspond to the playlist information of the present invention.

On the other hand, as can be seen in Figure 3 of the present invention (reproduced below), playlist information is stored in playlist information file (120), and Pre (Post) command information is stored in disc information file (110) with playlist specification information.

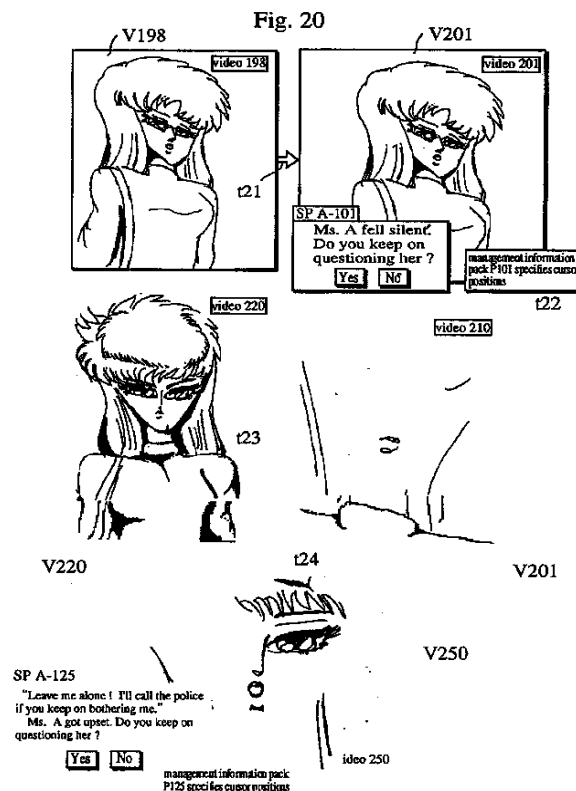
FIG. 3



That is, an important aspect of the present invention resides in that Pre (Post) information are stored with playlist specification information separately from playlist information. This logical structure makes it possible to utilize the same playlist information.

Also, the structure disclosed in MURASE et al. does not enable to use the same playlist information because their playlist information (VOB address information table) must be stored with Pre (Post)-processing command as PGC information. So if they would like to utilize the same playlist information, they need to create another playlist information (and store it by combining with another Pre (Post) command).

Additionally, MURASE et al. is directed at a fundamentally different object than that of the present invention. The present invention is directed at reproducing playlists. In contrast, MURASE et al. is directed at game logic, as is clear from, e.g., Figure 20 of MURASE et al., reproduced below.



MURASE et al. thus fail to teach each and every element of the independent claims of the present invention. MURASE et al. thus fail to anticipate the independent claims of the present invention. Claims depending upon an independent claim are patentable for at least the above reasons.

Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 15-28 have been rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 6-17 of U.S. Patent 6,985,411 in view of MURASE et al. Claims 15-28 have been rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 18-21 of copending Application No. 11/043,048 and claims 18-34 of copending Application No. 11/043,096 in view of MURASE et al.

In making these rejections, the Official Action relies upon MURASE et al. for teachings pertaining to Pre commands and Post commands. However, the failures of MURASE et al. in teaching or suggesting the Pre commands and the Post commands of the present invention have been set forth above. Therefore, combining MURASE et al. with U.S. Patent 6,985,411 or the copending applications would fail to induce one of ordinary skill and creativity to produce a claimed embodiment of the present invention. A *prima facie* case of unpatentability has thus not been made.

These rejections are believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Examiner is thanked for considering the Information Disclosure Statements filed July 16, 2004 and November 24, 2004 and for making initialed PTO-1449 Forms of record in the application.

Prior art of record but not utilized is believed to be non-pertinent to the instant claims.

The rejections are believed to have been overcome, obviated or rendered moot and no issues remain. The Examiner is accordingly respectfully requested to place the application in condition for allowance and to issue a Notice of Allowability.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

/Robert E. Goozner/
Robert E. Goozner, Reg. No. 42,593
209 Madison Street, Suite 500
Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

REG/lk